

# **News Items and Public Crime Summary for Week Ending February 13, 2010**

## **Curacao – US Navy Blames Pilot For 2008 Intrusion into Venezuela**

An American carrier air wing commander who sparked a diplomatic spat when he wrongly veered his S-3 Viking into Venezuelan airspace in May 2008 ignored many basic procedures that could have prevented the international incident, according to a U.S. Navy investigation. The aircrew led by Capt. James Paulsen, who was commander of the Virginia-based Carrier Air Wing 1, flew over several Venezuelan islands on May 17, 2008. At the time, Venezuelan officials denounced the intrusion and summoned the U.S. ambassador to Venezuela to explain the incident. Paulsen was later reprimanded, but he kept his job.

The Navy report blamed Paulsen, 51, and his detachment for failing to review the area's geography before conducting operations and being unaware of the 12 nautical-mile standoff rules that the U.S. military maintains in the politically sensitive area, the report said. The detachment "relied on „gouge“ or „word of mouth“ procedures from previous missions instead of following proper radio and positioning procedures," according to a Judge Advocate General's investigation, obtained by Navy Times through the Freedom of Information Act. "The squadron did not prepare operationally for this detachment. They did not review the „rules of the road“ to operate in [U.S. Southern Command] in spite of spoon-feeding efforts by [Joint Interagency Task Force South] to provide the information and prioritize the most important elements," the report said.

When notified of the intrusion, Paulsen made contact with the Venezuelan radio tower and told them he was returning immediately to international air space, U.S. State Department officials said.

Paulsen received a punitive letter of reprimand Oct. 17, 2008, from Fleet Forces Command chief Adm. Jonathan Greenert but remained in command of the air wing until August 2009. He is assigned to Naval Personnel Command and did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Paulsen's detachment of three aircraft was deployed to the U.S. Forward Operating Location on Curacao. It's unclear precisely what kind of mission the S-3 was conducting at the time of the airspace violation. Portions of the report were redacted because the information is classified. S-3 Vikings are primarily used for intelligence gathering missions, such as counter narcotics, identifying enemy submarines or assessing the military capabilities of foreign countries. The report also said that Navy liaison officers were not on the watch floor at the time of the over flight and were unaware of the incident until joint task force officials called their cell phones. That was "indicative of the lax attitude and lack of operational attention that the [liaison officers] gave this detachment," the report said. (Various media)

## **Curacao – Dramatic Decline in Venezuelan Tourism: U.S. Visits Stable**

The Curacao Tourism Bureau reported a sharp decline in Venezuelan tourism during November 2009; only 10.600 of the projected 24.000 tourists visited Curacao. 10.600 tourists from the Netherlands visited Curacao, a 12% increase compared to the same period in 2008. U.S.

tourism stabilized at 4.000 in November last year. The drop in tourism from Venezuela has resulted in a 3% overall decline over the first 11-months of 2009, according to the Tourism Bureau.

Curacao experienced a 28% cruise tourism increase; 360.000 cruise passengers visited the Island during the January-November, 2009 period. (Various media)

### **St. Maarten – U.S. Citizen Missing**

The Gendarmerie on French St. Martin has launched an appeal for information on the whereabouts of U.S. citizen Robert Brous who went missing on January 21, 2010. He was last seen driving a midnight blue BMW rental car and may still be driving this vehicle. (Daily Herald)

### **Aruba – Government To Address Criticism at FATF Meeting**

The Aruba government will attend the FATF Plenary meeting in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), next week. Aruba will present a detailed and prioritized action plan to the FATF in an attempt to demonstrate substantial progress while addressing shortcomings and avoid possible placement on the FATF list of high-risk jurisdictions. Aruba was referred to the International Co-operation Review Group, the so-called ICRG, of the FATF for a prima facie review. The G-20 has requested the FATF to issue and publish a high risk jurisdictions list by February 2010. The 2008 evaluation of Aruba's compliance with the 49-FATF recommendations was subpar. Aruba has been found to be non-compliant or partially compliant with 13 of the 16 key and core recommendations. Some of the key criticism is listed below:

- Aruba's system of AML/CFT preventive measures is incomplete, lacks coherence and is ineffective
- There is no separate and independent offense for terrorist financing in the Penal Code of Aruba
- Aruba has not implemented UN-resolutions 1267 and 1373
- The supervisory laws and regulations should be strengthened
- Supervision should be extended to other not-regulated sectors (e.g. investment business and insurance brokers)
- The not-regulated electronic stock exchange market forms a huge risk for ML/TF
- The AML/CFT Directives issued are incomplete
- The AML/CFT oversight should be strengthened, especially with regard to the offshore banks and insurance companies
- The staffing of the Reporting Center Unusual Financial Transactions (MOT), Central Bank of Aruba, Public Prosecutor's Office and Police is inadequate
- The training in the area of AML/CFT, also to increase level of awareness, should be enhanced.

### **Bonaire –Continental Adds Additional Flights; Delta Upgrades**

Continental Airlines and Delta have both recently added additional airlift from North America to Bonaire for the remaining portion of the high season and a portion of the summer season.

Effective February 12, 2010 until April 2, 2010, Continental will operate a second Newark flight on Saturdays in addition to their normal weekly rotation.

Continental will also operate a third Houston flight on Mondays effective March 7, 2010 until March 29, 2010.

Effective February 13 through August 14, Delta will upgrade the 757 (with 183 seats) currently operated on the Bonaire route to a 767 with 262 seats, providing extra capacity each week. (Amigoe)

### **Curacao – “De Rode Leeuw” Trafficking in Persons Case in Court**

Two men and a woman who were arrested at local nightclub “De Rode Leeuw,” in a Trafficking in Persons case appeared in court yesterday. They are suspected of sex trafficking by force, fraud and coercion of two Dominican women. The victims were found by law enforcement officials harmed, deprived of their food, water, and freedom. Also, their passports and clothes were confiscated by the suspects. The public prosecutor demanded a 36-month prison sentence for the two men each and 9 months for the woman. (Extra)

### **Antilles\Aruba - Working Visit Dutch State Secretary Bijleveld**

Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten is paying a working visit to Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, February 7-12. In Aruba, she has scheduled meetings with Governor Refunjol and Aruban government and opposition representatives. During her visit to Curacao she will focus on the dismantling process. Transnational crime, the police organization and law enforcement cooperation within the Kingdom are important topics on both Islands. (Various media)

### **Aruba – USFOL Screen Allegedly Monitors Military Bases in Western Venezuela**

In his Sunday talk show, former Venezuelan Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel stated that the U.S. government is spying on Venezuela from neighboring Aruba.

This time Rangel reportedly provided evidence from a report received from an unknown Venezuelan, who supposedly managed to enter the Forward Operating Location (FOL) premises on Aruba. Rangel said that a security lapse allowed the "visitor" to stay and look around. He observed four giant screens, one showing the western part of Venezuela, the area nearest to Aruba and Venezuela's military, service and industrial installations.

Rangel showed viewers the monitored areas Tachira and Zulia that border Colombia on a screen. The Aruba USFOL operates radar equipment which monitors plane movements in the Caribbean and the Venezuelan mainland, according to Rangel.

“The USFOLs were set up as counter-narcotics centers but have since expanded into spying centers, especially against increasingly "unfriendly" Venezuela. Also, the USFOL in Curacao is larger and less controversial, since Arubans have voiced their criticism concerning the USFOL presence,” Rangel stated. (Various media)

### **Aruba – First 100Days of PM Eman: Improved Kingdom Relations**

After his first 100-days in office, Aruba PM Mike Eman talked about his cabinet's accomplishments during a press conference. He referred to his local achievements, but also the renewed strategic partnerships with Royal Dutch Airlines KLM and Carnival Cruises. Eman was pleased that the relationship with the Kingdom partners has improved tremendously.

“We are working closely together with Dutch cabinet ministers concerning topics of common interest such as the US-owned Valero Refinery,” Eman said. (Various media)

## **Antilles – ‘Informateur’ Atacho: Majority Cabinet Possible**

„Informateur“ Atacho said that a majority cabinet is possible based on his consultations with political and other leaders. On Friday he will formally report his findings to Governor Frits Goedgedrag. Atacho hopes to present a willingness accord signed by the political parties that believe in the current dismantling process. The following parties will reportedly sign the willingness accord: PAR (6); PNP (1); UPB (2); NA (3); WIPM (1); DP Statia (1). This leaves the following parties in the opposition: LdK (5); Sovereign Party (2); DP Bonaire (1). (Various media)

## **St. Maarten – Sister of Missing Amcit Brous Appeals for Help**

The sister of missing U.S. citizen Robert Brous (42) has appealed for help. The man, missing from the French side since Friday, January 22, was reported missing last week. The sister said she is hoping the public and the media on the French and the Dutch sides of the island will come forward with any information that might help in locating her brother. U.S. law enforcement is reportedly not involved in the investigation at the moment. French St. Martin U.S. Warden Martin Lloyd Tackling confirmed that both French- and Dutch-side detectives are working on this missing person case. (Daily Herald)

## **Kingdom – Dutch Minister Verhagen Denies Venezuelan Allegations on USFOL**

Last week, Foreign Minister Verhagen answered a series of written questions by Dutch left- wing MPs about recent statements by Venezuelan President Chavez concerning the US Forward Operating Locations (USFOL) in the Antilles and Aruba.

Verhagen replied that “as he has been assured again, the U.S. is abiding by the terms of the USFOL agreement.” The U.S. is “solely” using the USFOL facilities for “reconnaissance flights with unarmed aircraft within the context of combating drugs.” “In addition, U.S. naval vessels regularly visit the Leeward Islands within the context of drug trafficking for joint exercises or routine visits. Whether or not the USFOL agreement is extended is a matter between the Kingdom and the U.S.; President Chavez’ statements have no impact on that.”

Asked about Chavez’ claim to the Antilles and Aruba, Verhagen noted that the Kingdom and Venezuela have a border treaty since 1978 and he assumed that Venezuela would respect this treaty.

Asked if the territorial security of the Antilles and Aruba is at risk, Verhagen replied, “The security of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba and the territorial integrity of the Kingdom are not at stake. The issue nonetheless has the government’s full attention.”

“The political and military tensions between Colombia and Venezuela are a matter of concern. The Kingdom is not involved. UNASUR is the most appropriate framework to find a solution for these problems.” (Various media)

## **Aruba – Parliament Enacts Terrorism Financing Law**

The Financing Terrorist Organizations Law was unanimously adopted by the Aruban parliament, yesterday. The law reportedly meets the FATF Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing standards. (Amigoe)

## **Kingdom – Dutch Parliamentary Delegation to Visit Antilles**

The Dutch Parliament's Permanent Committee on Antillean and Aruban Affairs NAAZ will travel to Curaçao and St. Maarten during the week of February 22. On the agenda are meetings with the various Island Parliaments of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba's Parliament. The main topic of discussion is the constitutional process. (Various media)

## **Kingdom – Dutch State Secretary Puts Pressure on Parliament; 10-10-10 At Stake**

Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten is increasing pressure on the Dutch Parliament to handle draft legislation which formalizes the new constitutional Kingdom relations. The dissolution target date (10-10-10) is at stake if we do not act soonest, Bijleveld said. The majority of the Dutch parliament factions reacted irritated and stated that they always made clear that carefulness is more important than speed; Bijleveld's pressure does not speed up the process. (Various media)

## **Aruba – Red Cross Aruba Collected Funds For Haiti Red Cross**

The Aruba chapter of the Red Cross announced that approximately U.S. \$650,000 was donated to the Help Haiti Red Cross fund. The funds will be transferred to the Haiti Red Cross Chapter.

Also, the Aruban government has sent a medical mission to the earthquake-devastated Haiti. (Aruba Red Cross Press Release)

## **Kingdom – Joint Police Service and Central Bank Issues Resolved**

The Kingdom Political Steering Group (PSG) for Constitutional Affairs meeting in Curacao was deemed "very fruitful" and "successful" by all parties involved. Good governance, finance, and justice were the main topics of discussion.

- The Joint Police Service will provide assistance to the new entities, where necessary, with manpower, skills or technology.
- St. Maarten and Curaçao will form a joint Central Bank with a common currency - not the U.S. dollar.

Dutch State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, Antilles PM Emily de Jongh-Elhage, Justice Minister Magali Jacoba, St. Maarten Commissioner Marlin and Curaçao Constitutional Affairs Commissioner Zita Jesus-Leito all believe that the 10-10-10 dismantling date is a viable goal.

The final pre-dismantling Round Table Conference between all Kingdom partners is scheduled for September 2010. (Various media)

## **St. Maarten - Governor Richards to leave office in March**

St. Maarten Island Governor Franklin Richards will reportedly leave office on March 1, 2010. He will supposedly be replaced by Mr. Roland Tuitt who is a certified public accountant (CPA) and a member of the financial supervision committee CFT.

Tuitt was a Finance Commissioner (1994-1995) and a parliamentarian (1998-2002) for the St. Maarten government. Governor Richards is currently serving his second six-year term in office. No reason was given for his planned departure. (Various media)

### **Aruba - Father of Natalee Holloway Suspect Dies in Aruba**

The father of the only remaining suspect in the 2005 disappearance of U.S. teenager Natalee Holloway has died in Aruba. Paul van der Sloot, 57, died of an apparent heart attack. Van der Sloot's son Joran has been characterized by Aruban prosecutors as the only suspect in the case. No charges have been filed. (Various media)

### **Bonaire - Windsurfing Champions Feature in Documentary**

The documentary Children of the Wind will tell the story of young children and teens from Bonaire who've journeyed from humble beginnings to international fame through the sport of windsurfing, transforming not only the island, but the face of the sport worldwide.

The documentary, Children of the Wind, will be shot this spring on Bonaire, and tells these champions' stories, starting with their first international competition in Merritt Island, Florida, back in 2001, when the Bonaire team brought home twenty awards. The photographic crew from Seek Films, a media entertainment group based in New York, will shoot on location on Bonaire in May, 2010. Film development is being planned now and the final documentary will include archival footage, interviews, lifestyle and action scenes, all of which will tell the dynamic story of Bonaire's young windsurfers. A promotional trailer is available on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CDgYcd4bZ8>) (Various media)

### **Curacao – Hyatt Regency to Welcome Guests April 2010**

The Hyatt Regency Curacao Golf Resort, Spa & Marina, built on 27 acres at Santa Barbara plantation, will welcome its first guests in April 2010. The 350 hotelroom resort will feature a spa, a marina, three restaurants and a world-class golf course. (Various media)

### **Curacao – Two Venezuelan Men Sentenced For Cocaine Smuggling**

A judge sentenced two Venezuelan men for smuggling 18 kilos of cocaine into Curacao with their fruit vessel "Expomar", last October. Alberto José Vargas Bracho, the Venezuelan captain received a 6-month prison sentence and Jose Zabala Media was sentenced to three years in jail. (Extra)

## **CURAÇAO**

### ***Crime February 5 – 11***

On February 7 a tourist was shot and injured during a robbery near a beach in San Juan. The following evening, a man in a vehicle in Muizenberg was shot and injured. The motive was not known. On February 9 a jewelry store in Saliña was robbed by two masked men. The next morning, a home owner in Soto was

beaten and robbed by several men who had broken into his home (Extra, Amigoe, La Prensa).

## **ARUBA**

### ***Crime February 5 – 11***

On February 8, two men attempted to rob a man arriving home in Tanki Flip. When the victim saw the men he quickly entered his home and locked the door. The suspects then fled from the area (Diario Aruba, Extra).

## **ST. MAARTEN**

### ***Crime February 5 – 11***

On February 8 a man was shot and injured in front of his home in Madame Estate. The motive was not known. On February 10 a home owner in Guana Bay was robbed by four men. The suspects were later arrested by patrolling police officers (Daily Herald, St. Maarten Island Time).

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*"The Weekly Press Summary is a compilation of stories running in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruban press that is intended to alert readers about items of interest to them. There is no interpretation or verification of the facts contained therein."*